

Appl. No. : 10/698,148
Filed : October 31, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1 through 42.

Please add the following new claims.

43. (New) A method of treating a patient, comprising the steps of:
providing a gastrointestinal sleeve, having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending therethrough;
transesophageally advancing the sleeve to position the proximal end adjacent an attachment site near the gastroesophageal junction;
advancing the distal end through the stomach and into the intestine; and
attaching the proximal end at the attachment site, such that the sleeve is configured to deliver food from the esophagus directly into the intestine.
44. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 43, further comprising the additional step of implanting a support at the site, for linking the proximal end of the sleeve to the site.
45. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 44, wherein the support is implanted in the same procedure as the sleeve.
46. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 44, wherein the support is implanted in a first procedure and the sleeve is attached to the support in a second procedure.
47. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 43, wherein the advancing the distal end step comprises advancing the distal end at least as far as the ligament of Treitz.
48. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 43, wherein the advancing the distal end step comprises advancing the distal end distally of the duodenum.
49. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 43, wherein the advancing the distal end step comprises advancing the distal end into the jejunum.
50. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 43, wherein the attaching the proximal end step comprises using a suture.
51. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 43, wherein the attaching the proximal end step comprises using at least one tissue anchor.

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52. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 51, wherein the tissue anchor comprises a "T" tag.

53. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 52, wherein the attaching the proximal end step comprises transmurally implanting the "T" tag.

54. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 44, wherein the support comprises a tubular cuff.

55. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 54, comprising attaching the cuff at the site with at least one transmural "T" tag.

56. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 43, wherein the sleeve is at least about 50 cm in length.

57. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 43, wherein the sleeve is at least about 75 cm in length.

58. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 43, wherein the sleeve is at least about 125 cm in length.

59. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 56, wherein the sleeve is sufficiently flexible that material traveling through the sleeve is influenced by the natural operation of the pylorus.

60. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 54, wherein the sleeve is removably attached to the cuff.

61. (New) A method of treating a patient as in Claim 54, wherein the sleeve is permanently attached to the cuff.